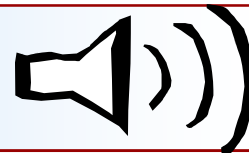




# VIBRANT VOICES



## *The Department of Community Development*

City of Cincinnati

January 2010

Volume 3 Issue 1

### THE AWARDS GO TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT!

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#### MISSION

To work with diverse neighborhood partners to leverage financing and other funding for quality housing, distinct commercial properties, small business development opportunities, and community based programs.

**T**he Department of Community Development (DCD) received numerous awards and recognitions for our contributions to the community and the profession in 2009.

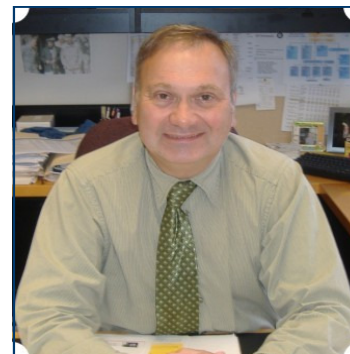
In November, the Cincinnati Preservation Association presented the department an **Award of Recognition** for the City's success in saving the Meiner Flats Building in Over-the-Rhine. To showcase their skills, local stonemasons originally constructed this structure in 1875. In 2002, the building was condemned after being vacant for more than twenty years. Partnerships between DCD's Property Maintenance Code Enforcement (PMCE) and the Housing Divisions with the Cincinnati Central City Development Corporation (3CDC) financed the stabilization of the building for future renovation. DCD contributed the cost of demolition and other funding, that was matched by 3CDC to bring the building into code compliance.

In October DCD staff participated in the conference of the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) and received an award for exceptional neighborhood development in recognition of **Neighborhood Business District Improvement Program (NBDIP)**. Competing in the Neighborhood Development Initiatives serving areas of more than 200,000 population category, this grassroots, competitive grant program for business associations, was a clear standout from the competition.

In April, the **Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP)**, a focused strategy for improving neighborhood quality of life, was a finalist at the National Development Council's NDC Academy for its

neighborhood impact. An interdepartmental delegation represented the City at a Washington DC ceremony that included Congressman Steve Driehaus.

In addition to these awards, DCD staff members were recognized for their outstanding work and expertise. Carolyn Gutjahr, Senior Development Officer, was nominated for the **2010 Governor's Award for the Arts in Ohio**, in the Community Development and Participation category. She has been a longtime champion of programs for artists and arts organizations and has developed policies and procedures for maintaining and growing the City's public art collection. Ed Cunningham, PMCE Division Manager, has been recognized as a national expert in the area of code enforcement and addressing the issue of vacant buildings. In 2009, he participated in the following events: the **National Vacant Properties Campaign Conference** in Louisville Kentucky; the **National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership/Urban Institute Conference on Foreclosures**, in Minneapolis Minnesota; the **International City County Management Association Annual Conference** in Montreal Canada; and, through a grant from the Ford Foundation, the **Urban Land Reform Initiative**, at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.



Michael Cervay, Director

**Don't Miss!!!**

Community  
Development's  
Television Show

**"Gems of the Queen City"**

Time Warner Cable  
Channel 23  
**Airtimes**

**Sunday - 7:00 am**

**Monday  
2:00 am & 5:00 pm**

**Wednesday  
9:00 am & 9:00 pm**

**Thursday - 6:00 am**

**Friday - 4:00 am**

**Saturday - 5:00pm**

## NEW CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL BUILDING OPENED IN AVONDALE

**C**on November 20, 2009, Cincinnati Children's Hospital held a ribbon cutting for its new Avondale facilities located at 3430 Burnet Avenue. Mayor Mark Mallory and Hamilton County Commissioner, Todd Portune, celebrated the completion of the 120,000 square foot facility. The City's participation in the project included approximately \$1.5 million toward land acquisition.

The building, constructed by Al Neyer, Inc. and designed by DNK Architects, is the result of extensive input from community groups, employees, patients, and parents. The facility features various environmentally friendly ("green") design elements.

The project was a partnership between the City of Cincinnati, Cincinnati Children's Hospital, the Uptown Consor-

tium, the Burnet Avenue Revitalization Team (BART), the Avondale Community Council, and other community leaders.



*Ribbon cutting held to celebrate opening of Burnet Avenue facility. Photograph by Greg Koehler, DCD Staff*

## CITY ARTISTS GRANT RECOGNIZED WITH SOLO EXHIBITION AND MAJOR FELLOWSHIP

**F**all 2009 was an event-filled season for Cincinnati artist, Casey Riordan Millard, a 2008 City of Cincinnati individual artist grant recipient. Millard's grant-funded project, a life-size diorama titled *Shark Girl with Dead Rainbow* (pictured) was featured in a solo exhibition at the Aronoff Center for the Arts' Weston Art Gallery. In November, Millard was one of five artists awarded a prestigious \$20,000 contemporary arts fellowship from the Efroymsen Family Fund.

Ms. Millard describes her whimsical yet thoughtful Shark Girl artworks as her way of addressing "the human struggle with one's limited time on earth and filling that time with diversion." The artist credits the City of Cincinnati's \$1,000 artist grant and the Weston Art Gallery show with helping to put her in a good position to win the Efroymsen fellowship. The City's grant enabled Ms. Millard to create her first large-scale installation of Shark Girl's fantasy world (see photo, left) and to give gallery visitors the opportunity to physically enter that world.

For additional information on the City of Cincinnati's artist grant program, visit <http://www.cincinnati.gov/cdap/pages/-18070/>.





### LEED-Certified Apartments Open in East Walnut Hills

\$7.1 million DeSales Flats development includes 76 new apartment units.

**D**eSales Apartments II, LLC held a ribbon cutting on November 12, 2009. The site, to be named DeSales Flats, is new construction of three multi-family apartment buildings at the corner of Chapel Street and Woodburn Avenue in the DeSales Corner area of East Walnut Hills. The total cost of the project including land acquisition is estimated to be \$7,127,000. The development was done to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards and received a fifteen-year tax abatement from the City. Towne Properties and CR Architecture + Design collaborated on the project, which also involved significant community input. Each building will be three-stories with a total of 76 apartments and will house a management office, fitness center and clubroom.



Photograph by Scott Beseler (www.soapboxmedia.com)

### Cash Reigns Supreme Seminar Held

Financial seminar offered by DCD and NDC to assist small business owners

**D**CD partnered with the National Development Council (NDC) on November 19, 2009 to present a small business seminar open to businesses from of any size and industry. The four-hour seminar, entitled *Cash Reigns Supreme: Tracking the Financial Results of Your Business*, was designed to help small entrepreneurs organize, interpret, and use financial statements to make important business decisions. The session offered practical, hands-on training on budgets, balance sheets, profit and loss statements, and cash flow statements. For information on future small business educational opportunities sponsored by DCD, call the Small Business Services line at (513) 352-3766 or email [communitydevelopment@cincinnati-oh.gov](mailto:communitydevelopment@cincinnati-oh.gov).



## DCD: WALKING THE TALK AT PREPARE AFFAIR

**D**CD staffers Russell Hairston, Lydgia Sartor and Al Taylor recruited more than sixteen City of Cincinnati employee volunteers and their families to assist the nonprofit organization, People Working Cooperatively, at its *Prepare Affair 2009*. The event was held on Saturday, November 14th.

City staff helped low-income homeowners, who are elderly or disabled, prepare for winter by raking leaves and yard debris, cleaning gutters and handling other minor tasks. Collectively, the City team assisted four



homes throughout the day within various Cincinnati neighborhoods. Among the DCD team were employees from the Department of Transportation and Engineering, Water Works, and Metropolitan Sewer District. In addition to service, Pre-

pare Affair afforded our team a day of mentoring for youth ranging in ages from 5 years to High School.



Smiling and bonding as in the photos below, mimic the joy found on the faces of the many homeowners who were served through this valuable program.

**Public Relations Team****Velda Chapman****Dwendolyn Chester****Ethel Cogen****Gerald Fortson****James Hatton****Cheryl Taggart****Jennifer Walke****COMING  
SOON!!****CiTiRAMA® 2010 @  
Rockford Woods in  
Northside – Home  
Show is June 2010****Contact  
Us****DO'S AND DON'T OF PROPERTY OWNERSHIP**

**F**rom time to time it helps to be reminded of what it means to be a good neighbor. Our responsibilities as property owners don't start inside the front door. Our home's external property is a part of the larger neighborhood fabric. When property is not maintained, our quality of life and safety, and that of and others, is negatively impacted. Below are friendly reminders that will help you become or stay a good neighbor. Make sure you communicate these practices at your next community meeting!

**Do's**

- Rake and maintain the collection of leaves on your property regularly to prevent slippage, breeding of animals and potential fire hazards.
- As weather permits, cut your grass once a week so that grass stays lower than 10 inches in height.
- Clean and check gutters routinely to reduce leakage and/or the collection of debris that could cause gutters to fall.
- Change batteries in smoke detectors twice a year or purchase a 10-year lithium smoke detector.
- Reduce clutter inside and outside. The unused items you hoard could likely help someone else.
- Empty excess rainwater that may collect in outside pots and vessels to

reduce the breeding of mosquitoes or other insects.

- Keep your property in good repair and make sure painted surfaces don't show chipping paint.
- Properly display house numbers in visible locations in case of emergency.
- Clean up any waste left by your pets.
- Observe the rules for trash collection. Set items out after 5:00 p.m. the day before. Then, bring cans and recycling bins in by the end of garbage collection day.

**Don'ts**

- Park your car on the grass or unpaved surfaces in your yard.
- Store excess rubbish and debris around your home.
- Play loud music or make noise that disturbs the peace and quiet of the neighborhood.
- Park inoperable or unlicensed vehicles on your property.
- Allow your dog to bark excessively during the night and disturb the peace.
- Pour contaminants or flammables down the sewers and drains.
- Allow storm water drainage from your house and property to create a nuisance (i.e., puddles on the sidewalk, muddy areas in the grass, etc.).

**WE'RE BACK AT OUR PERMANENT LOCATION!**

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Cincinnati, Ohio 45202**  
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**Phone: (513) 352-6146 • Fax: (513) 352-6113**